



12-18-03

DEC 17 2003

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HDP/SB/21 based on PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

## TRANSMITTAL FORM

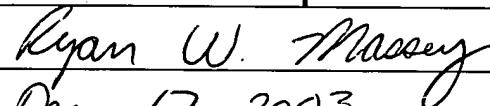
(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

		Application Number	10/634,236
		Filing Date	August 5, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Eichhorst et al
		Group Art Unit	To Be Assigned
		Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	5362-000469

### ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

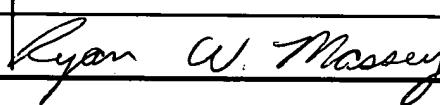
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):  Form PTO-1449; return receipt postcard
<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application		
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		
	Remarks	The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

### SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name Ryan W. Massey	Reg. No. 38,543
Signature			
Date	Dec. 17, 2003		

### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below.

Typed or printed name	Ryan W. Massey	Express Mail Label No.	EV 406 075 586 US
Signature		Date	12-17-03

EV 406 075 586 US



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/634,236  
Filing Date: August 5, 2003  
Applicant: Eichhorst et al  
Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned  
Examiner: To Be Assigned  
Title: BULKHEAD MODULE FOR AN AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE  
HAVING A CONVERTIBLE ROOF  
Attorney Docket: 5362-000469

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Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

**I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION**

The patents, publications and other information requested to be considered by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form 1449 attached hereto.

**II. COPIES**

A.  Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; (iii) for each cited pending U.S. application, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application which caused it to be listed including the claims directed to that portion; and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

B.  Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form 1449 or on the copies of PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial Number

U.S. Filing Date

C.  Because the present application was/is being filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

D.  This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form 1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. Since the International Search report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g).)

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

A.  Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

B.  A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):

1.  See the attached foreign patent office communication from a counterpart foreign application:

2.  English translations are provided:

3.  Other:

C.  The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

A.  The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does (do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Art Unit</u>
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V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

A.  37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b): (check only one box)

1.  within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.
2.  within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.
3.  before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required.
4.  before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.

B.  37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c): (check only one box)

before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.

1.  No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
2.  See the certification below. No fee is required.

C.  37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):

after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.

1.  See the certification below. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e): (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

- each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)). See further statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d) below in section VII, if applicable; or
- no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).
- some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d)

The undersigned hereby states that:

each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

VI. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A.  A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above identified fee.

B.  Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

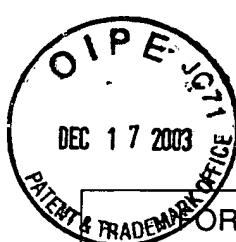
Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12-17-03

By: Ryan W. Massey  
Ryan W. Massey  
Reg. No. 38,543

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(248) 641-1600

RWM/dr



DEC 17 2003

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)  
**PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**  
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**  
 (Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 1 of 3

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
5362-000469	10/634,236
APPLICANT	
Eighhorst et al	
FILING DATE	GROUP
August 5, 2003	To Be Assigned

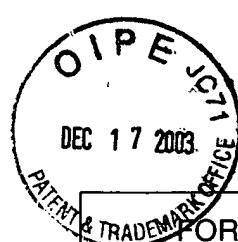
**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
1.		2002/0060471A1	05/2002	Bergerhoff et al		
2.		2002/0050727A1	05/2002	Hasselgruber et al		
3.		2001/0045759A1	11/2001	Russke		
4.		2001/0042992A1	11/2001	Obendiek		
5.		2001/0042991A1	11/2001	Schuler et al		
6.		2002/0041109A1	04/2002	Wagner et al		
7.		2001/0040386A1	11/2001	Miklosi et al		
8.		2001/0040385A1	11/2001	Obendiek		
9.		2002/0036413A1	03/2002	Neubrand et al		
10.		2002/0030381A1	03/2002	Schutt et al		
11.		2002/0024231A1	02/2002	Schutt		
12.		2002/0024231A1	02/2002	Schutt		
13.		2001/0024050A1	09/2001	Schutt et al		
14.		2001/0005086A1	06/2001	Neubrand		
15.		2704225	03/1955	Anschuetz et al		
16.		4729592	03/1988	Tuchiya et al		
17.		4776630	10/1988	Fukutomi et al		
18.		4796943	01/1989	Fukutomi et al		
19.		4854634	08/1989	Shiraishi et al		
20.		4895409	01/1990	Konishi et al		
21.		5078447	01/1992	Klein et al		

Examiner:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



DEC 17 2003

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)

**PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 2 of 3

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
5362-000469	10/634,236
APPLICANT	
Eighhorst et al	
FILING DATE	GROUP
August 5, 2003	To Be Assigned

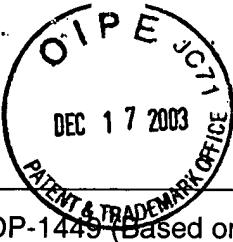
**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
22.		5090764	02/1992	Kogawa et al		
23.		5195798	03/1993	Klein et al		
24.		5209544	05/1993	Benedetto et al		
25.		5265930	11/1993	Klein et al		
26.		5542735	08/1996	Furst et al		
27.		5551743	09/1996	Klein et al		
28.		5558388	09/1996	Furst et al		
29.		5641193	06/1997	Zepnik et al		
30.		5671947	09/1997	Henn		
31.		5769483	06/1998	Danzl et al		
32.		5785375	07/1998	Alexander et al		
33.		5806912	09/1998	Ramaciotti et al		
34.		5881458	03/1999	Wolf et al		
35.		5979970	11/1999	Rothe et al		
36.		6019416	02/2000	Beierl		
37.		6053560	04/2000	Rothe		
38.		6183030	02/2001	Stender et al		
39.		6217104	04/2001	Neubrand		
40.		6293605	09/2001	Neubrand		
41.		6299234	10/2001	Seel et al		

Examiner:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)

**PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 3 of 3

ATTORNEY DOCKET No.	SERIAL No.
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APPLICANT	
Eighhorst et al	
FILING DATE	GROUP
August 5, 2003	To Be Assigned

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
42.		6312042	11/2001	Halbweiss et al		
43.		6318793	11/2001	Rapin et al		
44.		6336673	01/2002	Rothe et al		
45.		6347828	02/2002	Rapin et al		
46.		6390532	05/2002	MacFarland		
47.		6419294	07/2002	Neubrand		
48.		6425621	07/2002	Miklosi et al		

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation Yes	No
1.							

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	
1.		

Examiner:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.